Centenary War Memorial Listing Project - Proposed List Entry

Name of memorial:
Gillingham War Memorial

Memorial address (with grid reference):
Medway Park
Mill Road
Gillingham
Rochester Upon Medway
Kent
ME7 1HL
OS Grid Ref.: TQ 76961 68691

History (including date, architect/sculptor/mason, ceremony, all later additions and changes):

The war memorial in Gillingham was unveiled on 20th July 1924 by Alderman W.H. Griffin JP and was dedicated by Rev Harmer the Bishop of Rochester. It was erected to commemorate those residents of Gillingham who lost their lives in the First World War. Later inscriptions were added to commemorate Second World War and Korean War losses. It originally stood on a roundabout at the junction of High Street, Mill Road, Brompton Road and Malborough Road but was later moved across the road to Medway Park

The cenotaph was designed by Francis W. Doyle Jones, an architect and sculptor originally from Hartlepool. He designed a number of war memorials including First World War memorials in nearby Gravesend, Sutton Coldfield, and 'Men of Elland' in West Yorkshire.

Description (location/position, materials, appearance, inscriptions):

The memorial is a tall four-sided stone cenotaph with stepped detail on the top, standing on a two stepped square base. On each of the four sides there is a smaller step which runs about half the length of base. This whole thing stands on a square paved area surrounded by a low chain which is in a small park. Recently the area has been redeveloped and two inscribed walls have been added behind the memorial.

The front of the cenotaph is decorated at the top with a circle, inside the circle is the image of a figure in the shape of a cross, holding a torch in each hand, being supported by two other figures. Below which is the inscription, TO THE/ GLORIOUS MEMORY/ OF THOSE/ OF THIS BOROUGH/ WHO LAID DOWN/ THEIR LIVES FOR/ KING & COUNTRY/ IN THE/ GREAT WAR/ 1914-1919/ AND/ WORLD WAR/ 1939-1945/ KOREAN WAR/ 1950-1953.

The back of the memorial has a laurel wreath carved in relief with the inscription 1914/ 1919 inside it. Beneath which is the inscription, AT THE GOING DOWN/ OF THE SUN & IN THE/ MORNING WE WILL/ REMEMBER THEM.

Sources of data:

http://www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=16212.0
http://www.medway.gov.uk/leisureculturesandsport/findawarmemorial.aspx
http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/30621
https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/node/93685?search=search_map%3Fsearch_value%3Dgillingham%2520kent
https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=zCD8AwAAQBAJ&pg=PT38&lpg=PT38&dq=gillingham+war+memorial+dedication+1924&source=bl&ots=fM2_2nQHtl&sig=BMNWr19qa3YGdyybE8zFaeHczoo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjiqZ-4-YXKAhUB2RQKHfnmAJgQ6AEIRTAH#v=onepage&q&f=false
http://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/view/person.php?id=msib2_1204843722

How many photographs of this memorial are you supplying? 5

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Memorial owner/custodian contact details:

Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent
ME4 4TR

Why do you believe this is the owner/custodian?

Because the memorial is listed on their website as being managed by them.

Your name: [redacted]

Your address: [redacted]

Your telephone number: [redacted]

Your e-mail address: [redacted]

Have you attended a Civic Voice war memorial listing workshop? [redacted]

Please e-mail this completed form and your photos

to listingwarmemorials@HistoricEngland.org.uk **and** listingwarmemorials@civicvoice.org.uk

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